

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

LAINE et al

Atty. Ref.: **30-543**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/FI99/00778**

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Filed: **March 21, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE THICKENING OF
FIBER SUSPENSIONS**

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March 21, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS (AS ORIGINALLY FILED)

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that pulp is taken into said pre-thickener from a screen, the screening consistency of which is about 2 – 4 %.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the pulp thickened by the prethickener is taken into a filter, the feeding consistency of which is 3 – 6 %.